CREATURES ON THE LOOSE
MARVEL COMICS GROUP™
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CREATURES ON THE LOOSE!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

SPRAGG! THE LIVING MOUNTAIN!

PLUS:

WHERE LURKS THE GHOST!

Never finished high school?

Now you can get a diploma without going back

You already know why it's important to have a high school education. You've probably learned the hard way that it can be pretty difficult to get the kind of job you want without one. No matter how hard you're willing to work.

What can you do about it?

Maybe you've thought of trying again to get a diploma. But you've suffered enough classroom "battle fatigue" to last you a lifetime. So you'd hate to travel that route again even if you could.

But what if we told you that there was now a much better way to get a high school education? An adult way, which gives you regular high school subjects and your choice of practical vocational subjects which help you get started in one of a number of profitable fields.

That's the unique Wayne School way. You do your reading and assignments in your spare time, in the relaxed atmosphere of your own home, and "turn in" your completed assignments by mail. You don't have to give up your present job. You don't have to study or travel to class at inconvenient times.

And you needn't be afraid of dropping out all over again, if you had trouble with school before. Wayne's specially prepared lessons make even difficult subjects much easier to take. And Wayne grades your assignments in private, by mail. You're free from competitive classroom pressures. You stay relaxed, and your progress is much smoother.

If you're 17 or over and not now in school, why not send for more information? Mail coupon for our free booklet, *"How to finish High School at home."* You're in for a pleasant surprise.

Wayne School

wants to help you finish high school at home

Send for free facts

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Chicago, Illinois 60605

Please send me your free illustrated booklet *"How to finish High School at home"* containing full information about your courses and teaching methods, and about opportunities for high school graduates.

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*Address*_____

*City*_____

*State*_____ *Zip*_____

W24

"SPRAGG"

CONQUEROR OF THE HUMAN RACE!

THE FIRST TREMORS CAME EXACTLY AT NOON! SECONDS LATER, THE VIBRATIONS INCREASED... AND BEFORE A MINUTE WAS UP, ALL TRANSYLVANIA WAS SHAKING FROM THE TERRESTRIAL UPHEAVAL WHICH MEN CALL... EARTHQUAKE!!

MY SHOP IS COLLAPSING!

OUR WHOLE VILLAGE WILL BE DESTROYED!

LOOK! LOOK OVER THERE!!

THE GROUND HAS CRACKED WIDE OPEN!

SOMETHING IS COMING UP... RIGHT OUT OF THE EARTH!!

Fett

IN SPELLBINDING FEAR, THE VILLAGERS WATCHED AS FROM THE GREAT YAWNING CHASM THERE EMERGED THE MOST FANTASTIC, MOST INCREDIBLE SIGHT EVER SEEN BY MORTAL MAN!!!

IT'S **THROBBING--BREATHING!!** KEEP **BACK!** DON'T GO **NEAR** IT!

L-LOOK--

FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN!!! THAT THING IS--IS --**ALIVE!**

CHAPTER 1

KIRBY AYERS

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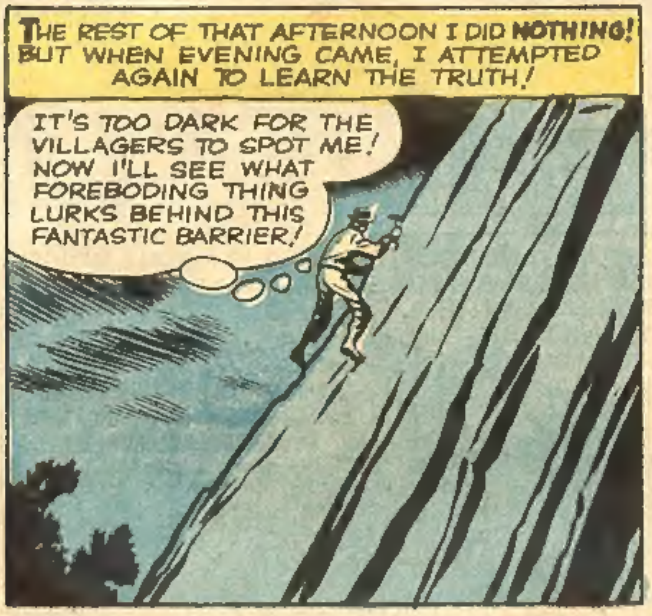
ME, I'M AN AMERICAN SCIENTIST, BUT THAT YEAR I WAS TEACHING IN EUROPE! WHEN THE EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED, I WAS IN A TOWN ONLY FIVE-HUNDRED MILES AWAY!
THE STREET IS VIBRATING SLIGHTLY! THERE MUST BE AN UNDERGROUND DISTURBANCE SOMEWHERE IN THE REGION!
DO YOU FEEL IT, HILDA?
NO--WAIT--YES! THE GROUND IS TREMBLING! I FEEL IT NOW!
INTRIGUED, I TURNED AND HAILED A CAB!
TAKE ME TO THE UNIVERSITY, QUICKLY!
YES, PROFESSOR!
WHEN I ARRIVED, MY COLLEAGUES WERE ALREADY AT THE SEISMOGRAPH, LOCATING THE EARTHQUAKE AND MEASURING ITS TREMORS!
IT'S IN TRANSYLVANIA! BUT WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT CAUSED THE QUAKE!
ONE OF US OUGHT TO GO THERE AND LOOK AROUND, TO SEE IF HE CAN DISCOVER THE QUAKE'S ORIGIN!
I'D LIKE TO HANDLE THAT IF NO ONE OBJECTS! I'VE NEVER BEEN TO TRANSYLVANIA AND I'D ENJOY THE VISIT!
ALL RIGHT, BOB... GO TO IT!
A FEW HOURS LATER, I ARRIVED AT THE SITE OF THE EARTHQUAKE! BUT WHEN I BEGAN TO QUESTION THE VILLAGERS...
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE --?
WE SAID THERE WAS NO EARTHQUAKE!
BUT THEN WHAT CAUSED ALL THE DAMAGE?
NOTHING!
GO AWAY... LEAVE US ALONE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY WON'T YOU TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED? AND WHY DO YOU ALL LOOK SO FRIGHTENED?? WHAT'S WRONG?? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF??
IT IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
WE WILL TELL YOU NOTHING! LEAVE OUR VILLAGE! YOU ARE NOT WANTED HERE!
2

BUT I DIDN'T LEAVE! SOMETHING WAS TERRORIZING THE VILLAGERS AND I WAS DETERMINED TO LEARN WHAT IT WAS! AND THEN I SAW--THE WALL!
THAT WALL LOOKS LIKE IT WAS BUILT PRETTY HASTILY! TELL ME, WHAT'S BEHIND IT?
WE DO NOT KNOW!
STOP ASKING QUESTIONS! IT--IT ISN'T SAFE!

STOP! KEEP AWAY FROM THE WALL!
I THINK YOU'RE ALL LYING! I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND THE WALL, BUT YOU'RE TOO FRIGHTENED TO TELL ME! WELL, I'LL FIND OUT FOR MYSELF!
STAY BACK! CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND THERE IS DANGER HERE?!!


THE REST OF THAT AFTERNOON I DID NOTHING! BUT WHEN EVENING CAME, I ATTEMPTED AGAIN TO LEARN THE TRUTH!
IT'S TOO DARK FOR THE VILLAGERS TO SPOT ME! NOW I'LL SEE WHAT FOREBODING THING LURKS BEHIND THIS FANTASTIC BARRIER!

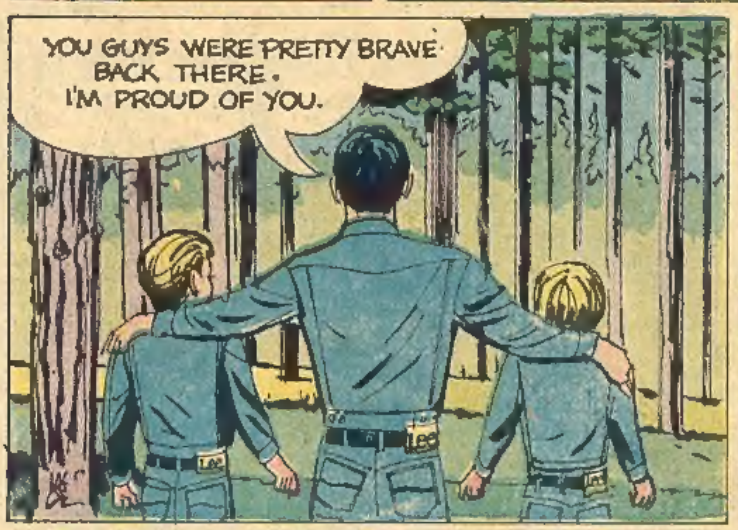
BUT NOW--NOW I'M MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO SEE WHAT'S HIDDEN BEHIND THE WALL!
MOVE!! WORK... WORK FASTER! WORK FOR THE ALL-POWERFUL SPRAGG!!
YES, MASTER!
SPRAGG IS KIND! SPRAGG IS WISE! SPRAGG IS OUR LEADER!
3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

Adventures of the Lee family.

MIKE LEE AND HIS SONS, TOM AND DANNY, SAVE A FOREST.

LATER
MIKE, YOU AND YOUR BOYS DESERVE MEDALS FOR SAVING THIS BEAUTIFUL FOREST AND ITS WILD LIFE. THANK YOU.
SKIP THE MEDALS, RANGER. WE'RE JUST GLAD WE WERE ABLE TO HELP.
AND THANKS TO OUR TOUGH LEE RIDER JACKETS AND JEANS WE WERE READY TO HELP.



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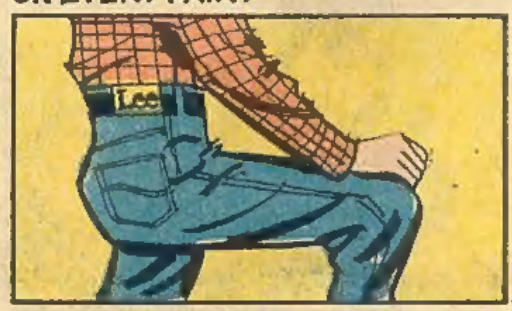


H. D. Lee Company, Inc., Work & Western Division, P. O. Box 440-K, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66201. Available in Canada.

THE FOLLOWING DAY, I RENTED A SMALL PLANE!

THERE'S MORE THAN **ONE** WAY TO SOLVE THIS MYSTERY! A BIRD'S EYE VIEW WILL TELL ME EVERYTHING I WANT TO KNOW!

BUT AS MY PLANE REACHED THE SITE OF THE WALL...

CRASH!

BUT PROVIDENCE **AGAIN** WAS WITH ME!

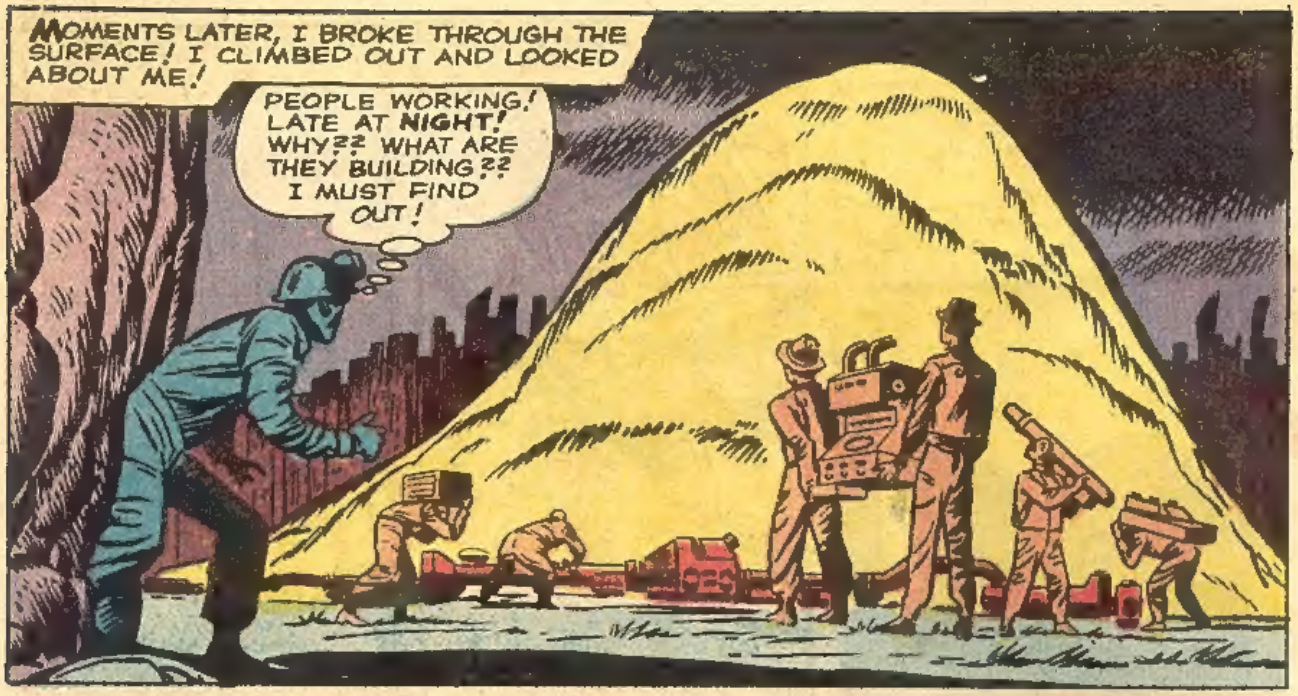
THIS HAYSTACK **SAVED** ME!

IT WAS AN INVISIBLE BARRIER--A KIND OF **FORCE FIELD!** BUT NO AGENCY ON EARTH KNOWS HOW TO CREATE SUCH A BARRIER! IT MUST HAVE COME FROM SOME SUPERIOR **ALIEN INTELLIGENCE!!**

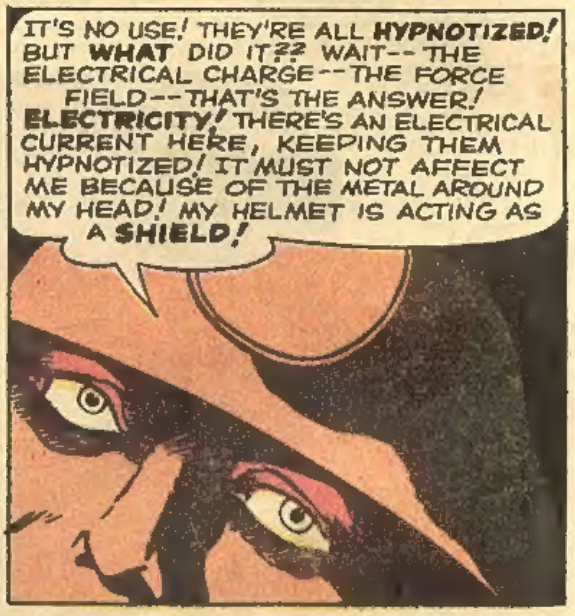
NOW I WAS **CONVINCED** THAT THE UNKNOWN THING HIDING BEHIND THE WALL, FRIGHTENING THE VILLAGERS, WAS A DEADLY MENACE NOT ONLY TO **TRANSYLVANIA**--BUT PERHAPS TO THE **ENTIRE WORLD!**

IF THE MAPS I STUDIED ARE CORRECT, THIS ABANDONED MINE HAS A SHAFT WHICH RUNS RIGHT **UNDER** THE WALL!

I DISCOVERED THE SHAFT, REACHED THE END, AND BURROWED MY WAY UPWARD! AS I CAME CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE SURFACE, MY HANDS BEGAN TO TREMBLE! COLD SWEAT FORMED ON MY BROW! FEAR GRIPPED MY HEART! BUT I **HAD** TO GO ON!


MOMENTS LATER, I BROKE THROUGH THE SURFACE! I CLIMBED OUT AND LOOKED ABOUT ME!
PEOPLE WORKING! LATE AT NIGHT! WHY?? WHAT ARE THEY BUILDING?? I MUST FIND OUT!

BUT WHEN I APPROACHED THE WORKERS, I SAW THAT THEY WERE IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE! I SPOKE TO THEM, BUT THEY DIDN'T REPLY! ALL THEY DID WAS MUTTER...
SPRAGG IS MIGHTY! ALL MUST OBEY THE WILL OF SPRAGG!
WHO? WHAT IS SPRAGG?? TELL ME!
WISE IS SPRAGG! GREAT IS SPRAGG! ALL MUST SERVE SPRAGG!


IT'S NO USE! THEY'RE ALL HYPNOTIZED! BUT WHAT DID IT?? WAIT--THE ELECTRICAL CHARGE--THE FORCE FIELD--THAT'S THE ANSWER! ELECTRICITY! THERE'S AN ELECTRICAL CURRENT HERE, KEEPING THEM HYPNOTIZED! IT MUST NOT AFFECT ME BECAUSE OF THE METAL AROUND MY HEAD! MY HELMET IS ACTING AS A SHIELD!

SUDDENLY, I HEARD A STRANGE HIGH-PITCHED VOICE!
HEAR ME, HUMANS! I AM SPRAGG, YOUR MASTER! YOU MUST WORK FOR ME! BUILD FOR ME! FOR I AM SPRAGG, THE ALL-POWERFUL!
THE VOICE IS COMING FROM UP ON THAT HILL! SOMEONE MUST BE THERE! BUT I CAN'T SEE ANYONE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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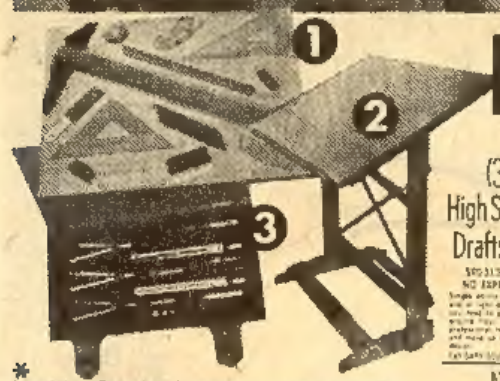

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(The following quotes from U. S. Labor Dept point out nationwide shortage for Draftsmen)

"The dearth of qualified applicants has resulted in increasing calls for trainees, as employers in many areas relaxed hiring specifications. Experience requirements have been virtually eliminated, along with age barriers."

"Steadily growing employer requirements...were accompanied by marked reductions in the supply of draftsmen available."

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"We would be interested in interviewing your grads as potential employees." **REMINGTON**

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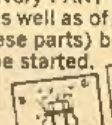
❶ Architectural Drafting

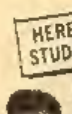
Today's population explosion guarantees boom in building of homes, churches, schools, factories, office buildings & warehouses is just starting. Thousands Architectural Draftsmen needed NOW because drawings must be made of every part of every building before ground can be broken.

❷ Mechanical Drafting

Skyrocketing U.S. mass production requires millions of drawings & thousands of Mechanical Draftsmen all along the way. Drawings must be made of every PART of every product used in the U.S. (as well as of the machines that make these parts) before production can be started.



HERE'S WHAT STUDENTS SAY



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"My first position after completing your course jumped my income from $350 to $820 per month." —G. W., Tenn.

Big Promotion!
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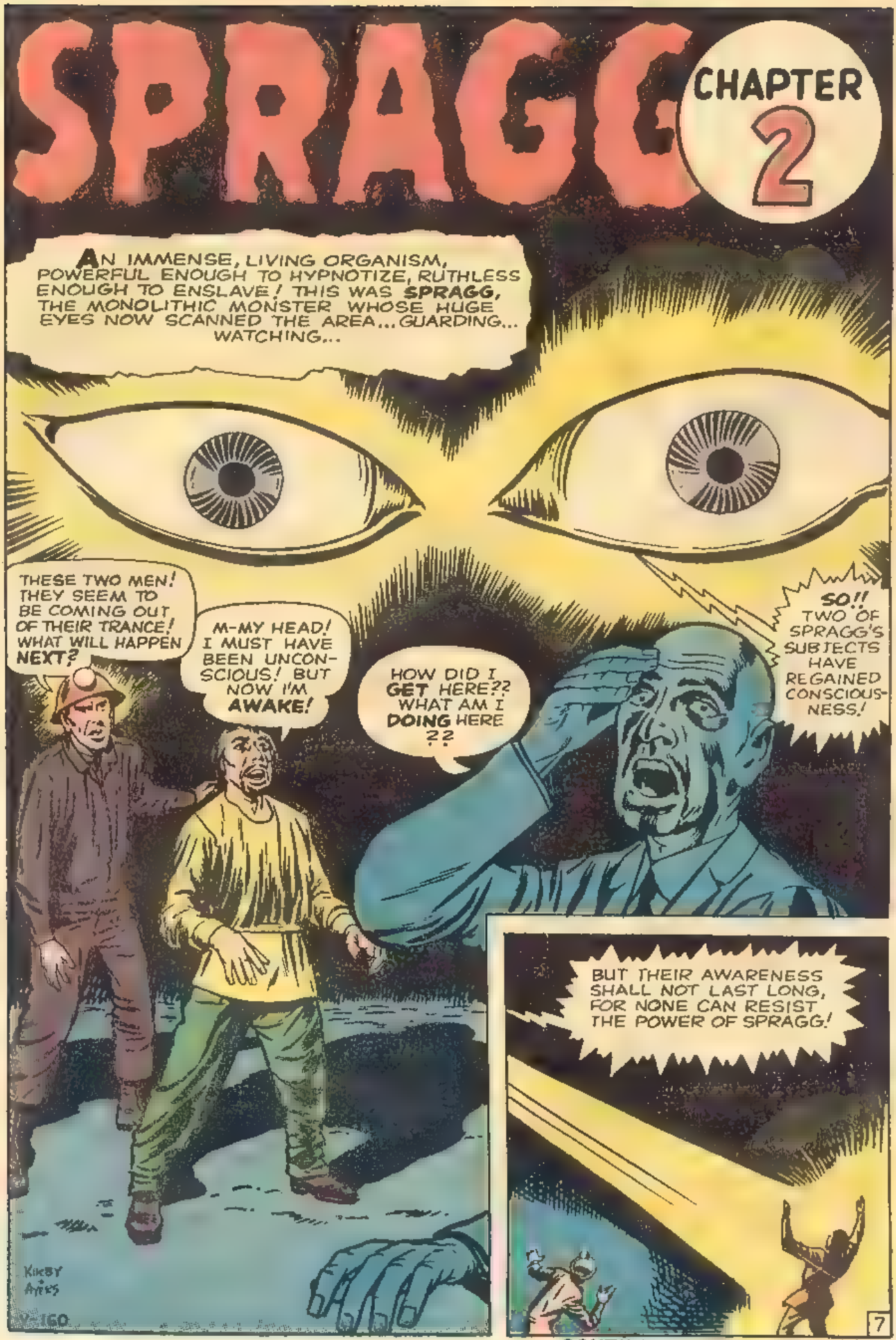
THE HILL--IT'S STARTING TO THROB--TO PULSATE!! AND THERE ARE TWO SLITS OPENING UP!!
THEY'RE OPENING WIDER! NOW--NOW I UNDERSTAND!!! THERE'S NOBODY ON THE HILL!! IT'S THE--THE HILL ITSELF!!!
BEHOLD, HUMANS--THE ALL-SEEING EYES OF YOUR MASTER!!
THE HILL ITSELF IS SPRAGG!
6


SPRAGG
CHAPTER 2
AN IMMENSE, LIVING ORGANISM, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO HYPNOTIZE, RUTHLESS ENOUGH TO ENSLAVE! THIS WAS SPRAGG, THE MONOLITHIC MONSTER WHOSE HUGE EYES NOW SCANNED THE AREA... GUARDING... WATCHING...
THESE TWO MEN! THEY SEEM TO BE COMING OUT OF THEIR TRANCE! WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?
M-MY HEAD! I MUST HAVE BEEN UNCONSCIOUS! BUT NOW I'M AWAKE!
HOW DID I GET HERE?? WHAT AM I DOING HERE ??
SO!! TWO OF SPRAGG'S SUBJECTS HAVE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS!
BUT THEIR AWARENESS SHALL NOT LAST LONG, FOR NONE CAN RESIST THE POWER OF SPRAGG!
KIRBY AYERS
7

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Send my first bundle of papers, selling helps and prize offers.

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Are You a Boy?_____ Age_____ Date Born_____ Year_____

In Care of_____

Street and No._____ R.F.D._____

Post Office_____ State_____

Zip Code No._____

Print Your Last Name Plainly Here

NOT DARING TO REVEAL MYSELF, I STOOD HELPLESSLY BY, WATCHING SPRAGG DEMONSTRATE HIS MIND-STAGGERING POWER!

IT'S INCREDIBLE! TWO MEN BEING HELD IN THE AIR BY ONLY A BEAM OF LIGHT!

ONCE AGAIN I CONQUER YOUR WILLS! ONCE AGAIN I CHANGE YOU INTO UNTHINKING SERFS, LIVING ONLY TO SERVE THE MIGHTY SPRAGG!

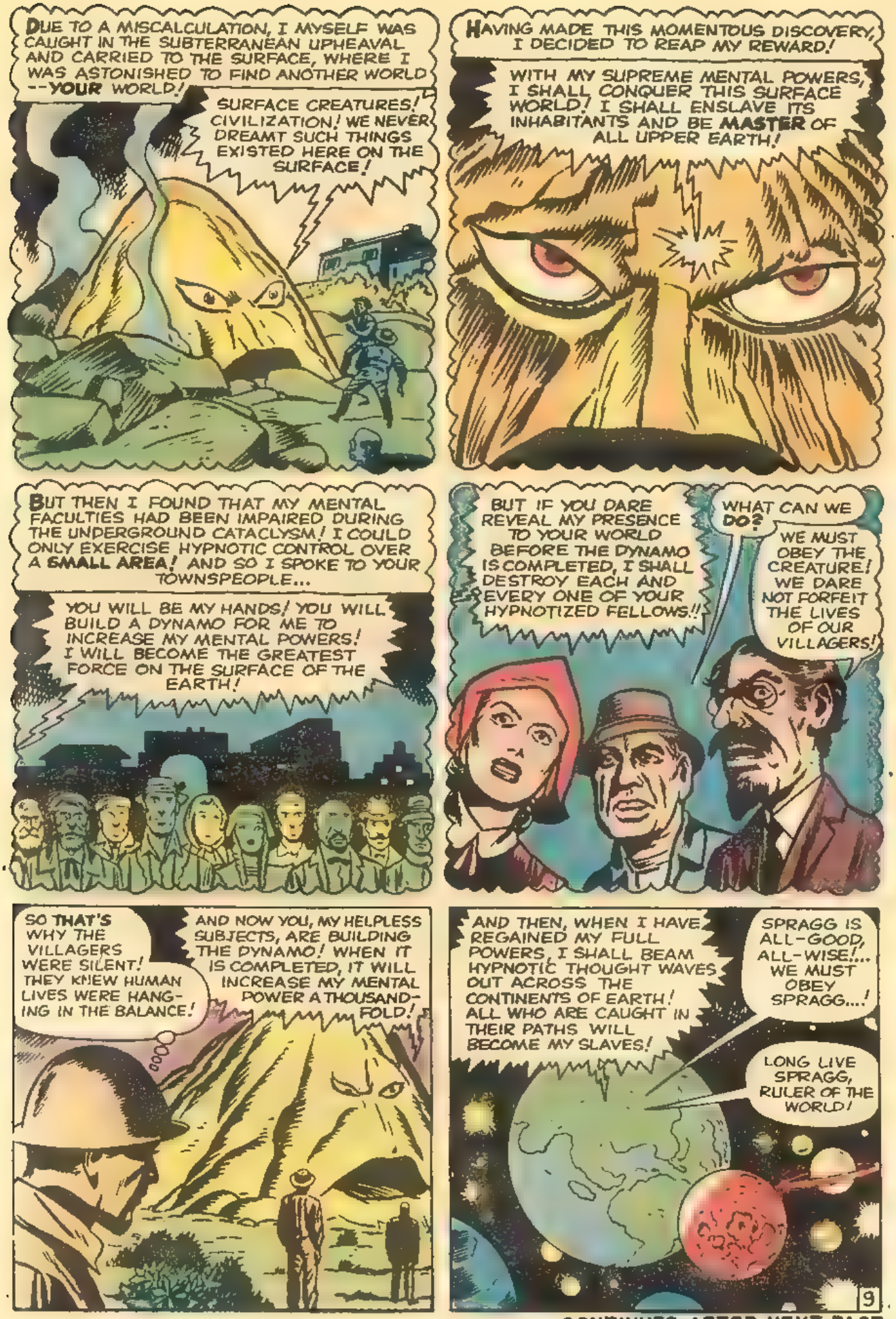
AS SOON AS THE MEN WERE AGAIN HYPNOTIZED, SPRAGG ADDRESSED HIS ENSLAVED THRONG!

NOW, SURFACE CREATURES, I SHALL REVEAL TO YOU YOUR MASTER'S ORIGIN! TWO BILLION YEARS AGO, I AND MY RACE WERE BUT HARMLESS SPORES, FLOATING AIMLESSLY IN SPACE AND TIME...

THEN, WHEN THE STAR YOU CALL THE SUN EXPLODED, FORMING YOUR PLANETS... WE SPORES WERE ENTRAPPED IN ONE OF THE ENORMOUS MASSES OF HOT, GLOWING GAS...

AND WHEN THE BODY OF GAS CONDENSED AND SOLIDIFIED INTO EARTH, WE WERE DEEP WITHIN! WITHIN THE CORE OF THE PLANET, UNABLE TO MOVE, CAPABLE ONLY OF **THOUGHT PROJECTION!**

DURING THE AGES, CONSTANT PRACTICE DEVELOPED OUR MENTAL POWERS SO THAT WE COULD TRANSFORM OUR THOUGHTS INTO WORDS! WITH OUR **MINDS** ALONE, WE COULD EVEN STIR THE REGIONS AROUND US, AS I DID WHEN I CAUSED THE EARTHQUAKE!


DUE TO A MISCALCULATION, I MYSELF WAS CAUGHT IN THE SUBTERRANEAN UPHEAVAL AND CARRIED TO THE SURFACE, WHERE I WAS ASTONISHED TO FIND ANOTHER WORLD --YOUR WORLD!
SURFACE CREATURES! CIVILIZATION! WE NEVER DREAMT SUCH THINGS EXISTED HERE ON THE SURFACE!
HAVING MADE THIS MOMENTOUS DISCOVERY, I DECIDED TO REAP MY REWARD!
WITH MY SUPREME MENTAL POWERS, I SHALL CONQUER THIS SURFACE WORLD! I SHALL ENSLAVE ITS INHABITANTS AND BE MASTER OF ALL UPPER EARTH!
BUT THEN I FOUND THAT MY MENTAL FACULTIES HAD BEEN IMPAIRED DURING THE UNDERGROUND CATACLYSM! I COULD ONLY EXERCISE HYPNOTIC CONTROL OVER A SMALL AREA! AND SO I SPOKE TO YOUR TOWNSPEOPLE...
YOU WILL BE MY HANDS! YOU WILL BUILD A DYNAMO FOR ME TO INCREASE MY MENTAL POWERS! I WILL BECOME THE GREATEST FORCE ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH!
BUT IF YOU DARE REVEAL MY PRESENCE TO YOUR WORLD BEFORE THE DYNAMO IS COMPLETED, I SHALL DESTROY EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR HYPNOTIZED FELLOWS!!
WHAT CAN WE DO?
WE MUST OBEY THE CREATURE! WE DARE NOT FORFEIT THE LIVES OF OUR VILLAGERS!
SO THAT'S WHY THE VILLAGERS WERE SILENT! THEY KNEW HUMAN LIVES WERE HANGING IN THE BALANCE!
AND NOW YOU, MY HELPLESS SUBJECTS, ARE BUILDING THE DYNAMO! WHEN IT IS COMPLETED, IT WILL INCREASE MY MENTAL POWER A THOUSAND-FOLD!
AND THEN, WHEN I HAVE REGAINED MY FULL POWERS, I SHALL BEAM HYPNOTIC THOUGHT WAVES OUT ACROSS THE CONTINENTS OF EARTH! ALL WHO ARE CAUGHT IN THEIR PATHS WILL BECOME MY SLAVES!
SPRAGG IS ALL-GOOD, ALL-WISE!... WE MUST OBEY SPRAGG...!
LONG LIVE SPRAGG, RULER OF THE WORLD!
9

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

GROW MAN GROW!

GROW MAN GROW! (Ladies too!)

Could you use a few more inches in height?
Are you fed up with being called 'shorty', 'Little Man' or even 'Hey you down there'.

NOW for the first time on the North American continent we present NEW HEIGHT, a complete, illustrated step-by-step course showing how you can actually increase your height from two to six inches in a few short weeks.
No gadgets, strenuous exercise, appliances, drugs or elevators - NEW HEIGHT is based on a Swiss/English Scientific method which reactivates the whole body. Here's PROOF:

"Before taking your NEW HEIGHT course I was two inches shorter than my girlfriend, now five weeks later I am an inch taller. She is thrilled."

NEW HEIGHT is effective for either sex, completely safe and what's more every course comes with a written guarantee that you will actually grow inches taller, or your money cheerfully refunded. You have nothing to lose . . . but your shortness!

Spend a few minutes a day in the privacy of your own room, following our step-by-step instructions and in only a few short weeks you will be amazed at your increase in height.

Listen to what 'RT' of Toronto had to say about our secret method:

"At 43 years of age I have gained 3" in height. My ambition is to keep going until I reach the six feet mark."

"Your NEW HEIGHT course is worth ten times your cost. My life has changed since I gained 4½". 'GE' New York, N.Y.

"I gained a full inch the first 4 days" says JFG of LA, Calif. "I have no hesitation in recommending NEW HEIGHT to anyone who wants to be taller".

Whether it be social success, love, sports, jobs or pleasure, the tall man always seems to get there first.

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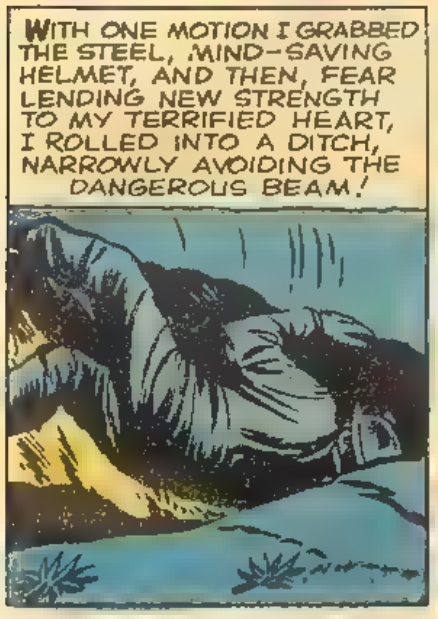
I SHALL HAVE MYSELF SET ON A MIGHTY THRONE, IN A GIANT PALACE... WHERE MILLIONS OF HELPLESS HUMANS WILL HONOR ME--WILL PAY ME TRIBUTE!
BRING ME YOUR VALUABLES! SPRAGG WANTS ALL YOU HAVE!
WE MUST OBEY SPRAGG! ...SPRAGG IS OUR MASTER...!
SPRAGG IS KIND... SPRAGG IS JUST!
YES, MY MASTERY OVER EARTH SHALL BE COMPLETE, AND YOU ARE THE CREATURES WHO WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE! YOU PUNY EARTHLINGS WHOSE MINDS I NOW CONTROL!! GO, HELPLESS HUMANS, WORK--BUILD--COMPLETE THE DYNAMO THAT SHALL MAKE SPRAGG SUPREME!
YES, OH MIGHTY SPRAGG!
IT SHALL BE AS YOU COMMAND!
IT'S MADNESS! HIS DIABOLICAL SCHEME MUST BE STOPPED! BUT HOW--AND BY WHOM?? I'M THE ONLY PERSON WHO'S NOT HYPNOTIZED! IT'S UP TO ME THEN! SOMEHOW--SOMEWAY--I ALONE MUST DEFEAT SPRAGG!
FINALLY, I HIT UPON A DANGEROUS PLAN!
I MUST BE CAREFUL... MUST MAKE IT APPEAR THAT I AM HELPING TO CONSTRUCT THE DYNAMO!
FOR TWO DAYS I WORKED ON THE COMPLEX MACHINERY, ALTERING ITS ELECTRONIC FUNCTIONS, CHANGING ITS MECHANICAL SECTIONS, UNTIL THE GRIM MOMENT THAT SPRAGG ANNOUNCED--
I SENSE THE PRESENCE OF A FREE WILL--OF AN ALERT, CONSCIOUS MIND! ONE OF YOU IS NOT HYPNOTIZED! WHO IS IT? MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN TO ME!
YOU REFUSE TO REVEAL YOURSELF?! VERY WELL! SPRAGG HAS EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR DISCOVERING THE TRUTH!
I PRAY MY HELMET WILL SHIELD ME FROM HIS MIND PROBE...
IF HE LEARNS WHO I AM--I'M DOOMED!
10

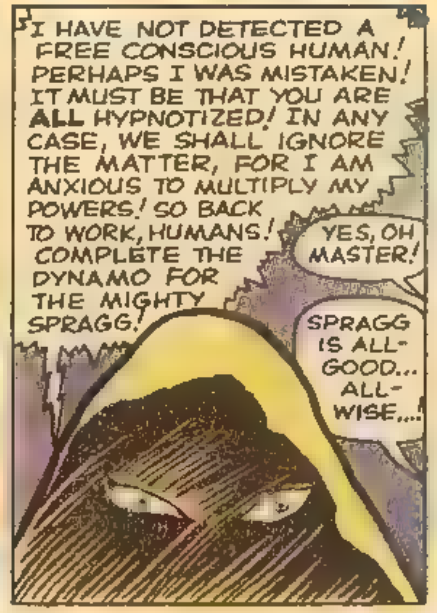
THIS DELTA-COSMIC ENERGY BEAM WILL REGISTER IMMEDIATELY UPON CONTACT WITH A CREATURE WHO IS NOT HYPNOTIZED!
I MUST KEEP OUT OF THE BEAM'S PATH!

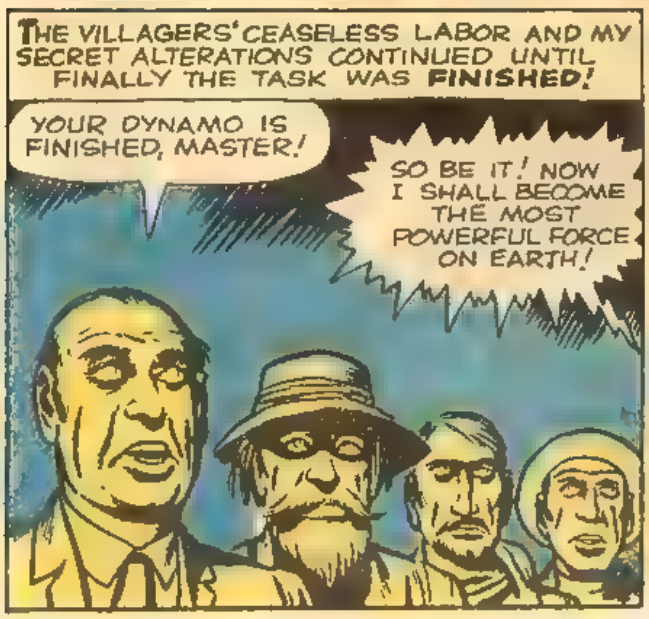
SUDDENLY, I TRIPPED, AND MY HELMET FELL FROM MY HEAD!
OHHH--

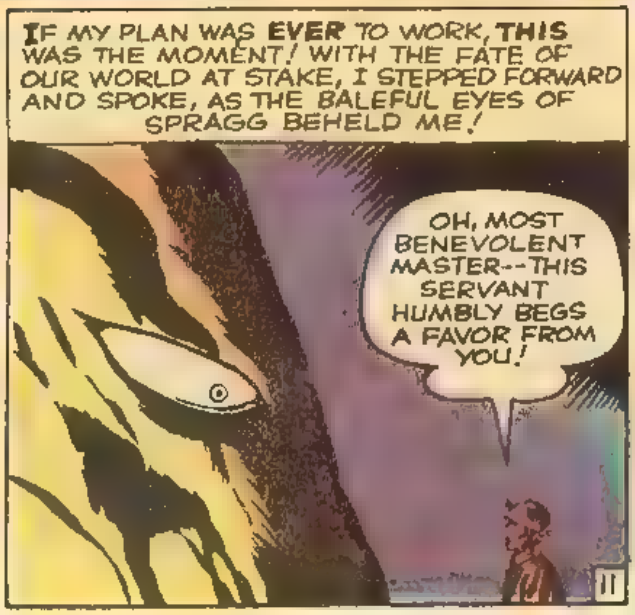
MY MIND--IT'S REELING! I'M FALLING UNDER THE SPELL OF SPRAGG! I-I'VE GOT TO REGAIN MY HELMET, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

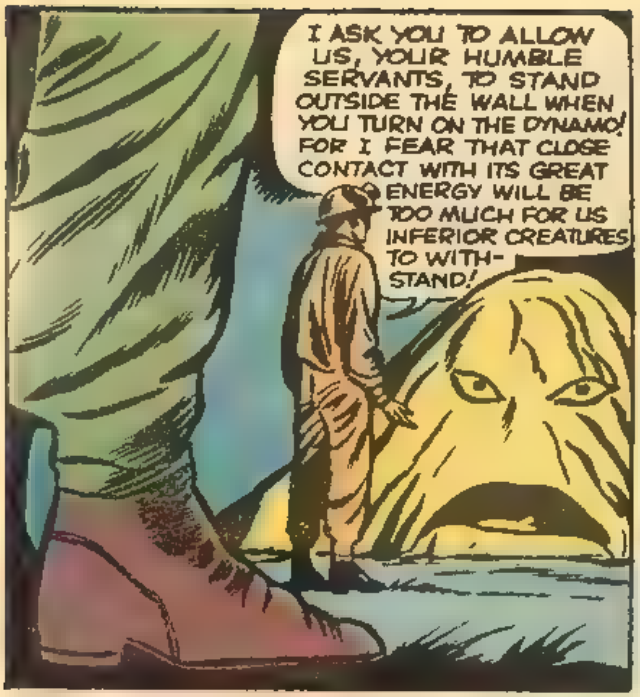

WITH ONE MOTION I GRABBED THE STEEL, MIND-SAVING HELMET, AND THEN, FEAR LENDING NEW STRENGTH TO MY TERRIFIED HEART, I ROLLED INTO A DITCH, NARROWLY AVOIDING THE DANGEROUS BEAM!

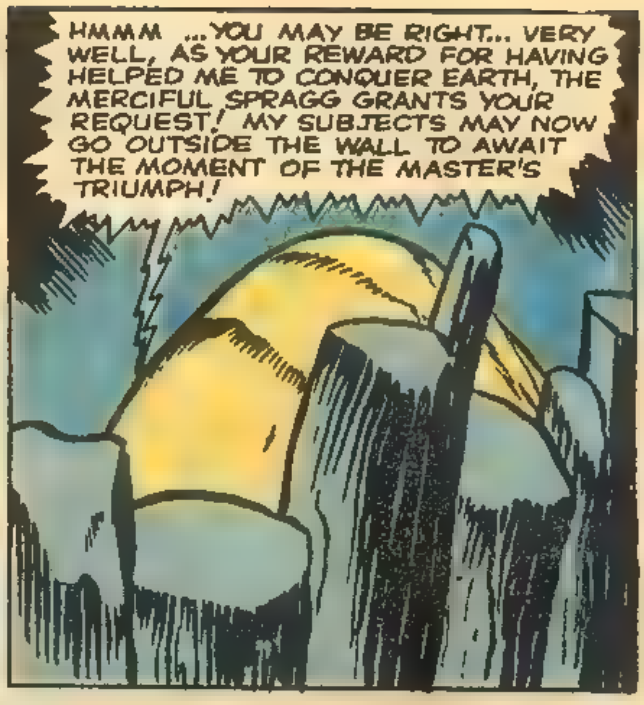
THE BEAM PASSED OVER, MISSING ME BY SCANT INCHES!
I-I'M SAFE.

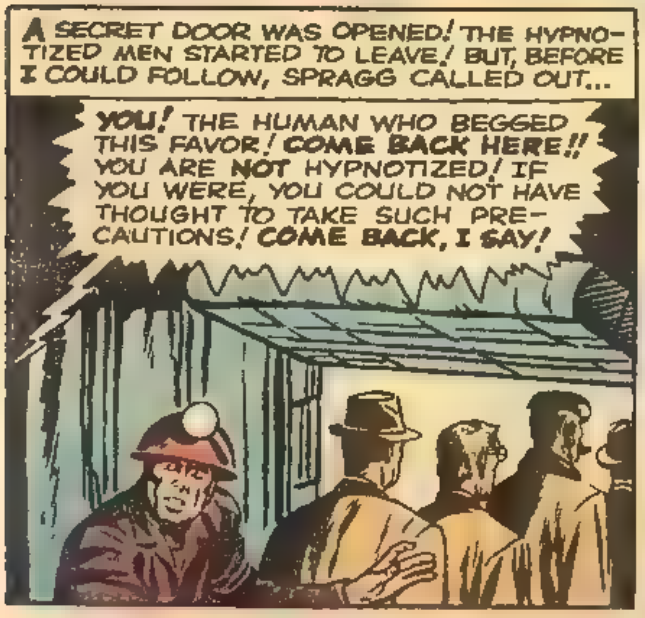

I HAVE NOT DETECTED A FREE CONSCIOUS HUMAN! PERHAPS I WAS MISTAKEN! IT MUST BE THAT YOU ARE ALL HYPNOTIZED! IN ANY CASE, WE SHALL IGNORE THE MATTER, FOR I AM ANXIOUS TO MULTIPLY MY POWERS! SO BACK TO WORK, HUMANS! COMPLETE THE DYNAMO FOR THE MIGHTY SPRAGG!
YES, OH MASTER!
SPRAGG IS ALL-GOOD... ALL-WISE...!

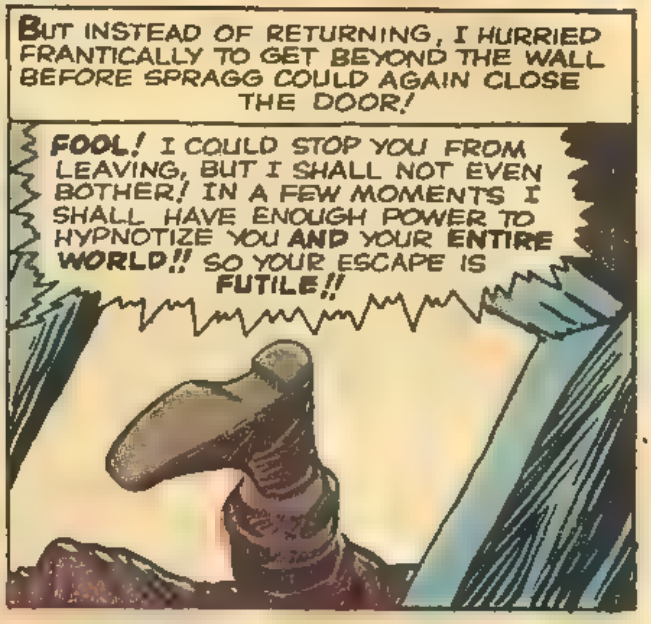

THE VILLAGERS' CEASELESS LABOR AND MY SECRET ALTERATIONS CONTINUED UNTIL FINALLY THE TASK WAS FINISHED!
YOUR DYNAMO IS FINISHED, MASTER!
SO BE IT! NOW I SHALL BECOME THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE ON EARTH!


IF MY PLAN WAS EVER TO WORK, THIS WAS THE MOMENT! WITH THE FATE OF OUR WORLD AT STAKE, I STEPPED FORWARD AND SPOKE, AS THE BALEFUL EYES OF SPRAGG BEHELD ME!
OH, MOST BENEVOLENT MASTER--THIS SERVANT HUMBLY BEGS A FAVOR FROM YOU!

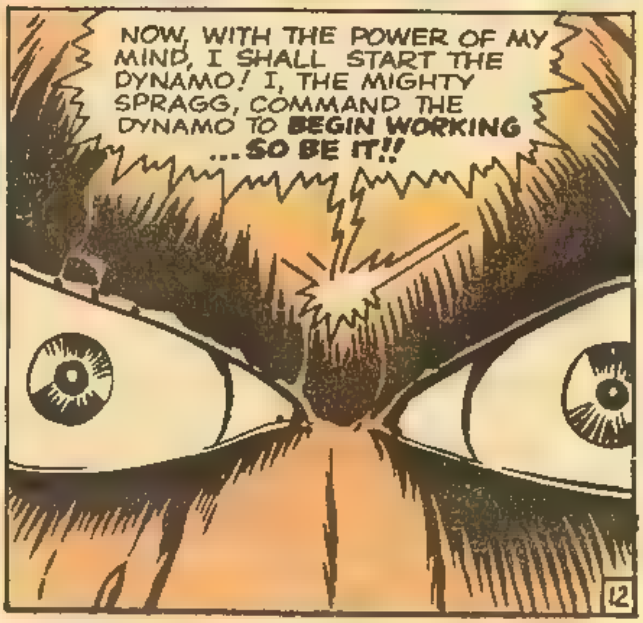

I ASK YOU TO ALLOW US, YOUR HUMBLE SERVANTS, TO STAND OUTSIDE THE WALL WHEN YOU TURN ON THE DYNAMO! FOR I FEAR THAT CLOSE CONTACT WITH ITS GREAT ENERGY WILL BE TOO MUCH FOR US INFERIOR CREATURES TO WITH-STAND!

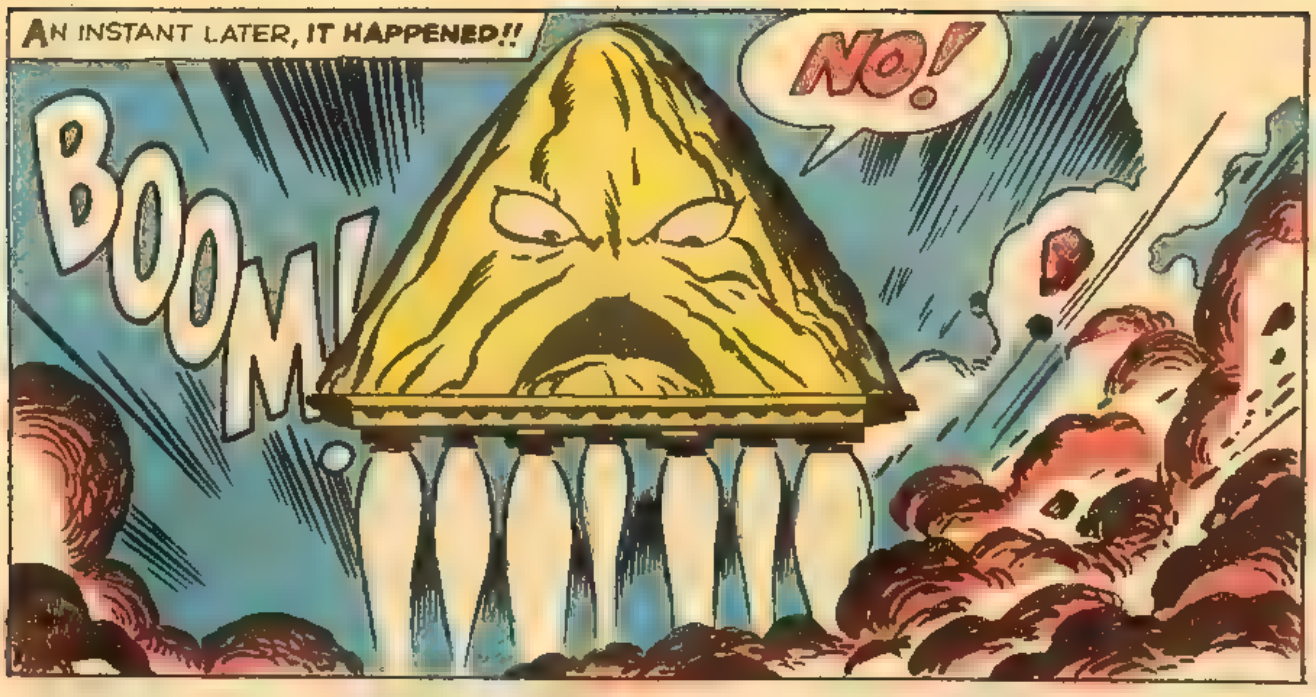

HMMM ...YOU MAY BE RIGHT... VERY WELL, AS YOUR REWARD FOR HAVING HELPED ME TO CONQUER EARTH, THE MERCIFUL SPRAGG GRANTS YOUR REQUEST! MY SUBJECTS MAY NOW GO OUTSIDE THE WALL TO AWAIT THE MOMENT OF THE MASTER'S TRIUMPH!


A SECRET DOOR WAS OPENED! THE HYPNO-TIZED MEN STARTED TO LEAVE! BUT, BEFORE I COULD FOLLOW, SPRAGG CALLED OUT...
YOU! THE HUMAN WHO BEGGED THIS FAVOR! COME BACK HERE!! YOU ARE NOT HYPNOTIZED! IF YOU WERE, YOU COULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT TO TAKE SUCH PRE-CAUTIONS! COME BACK, I SAY!

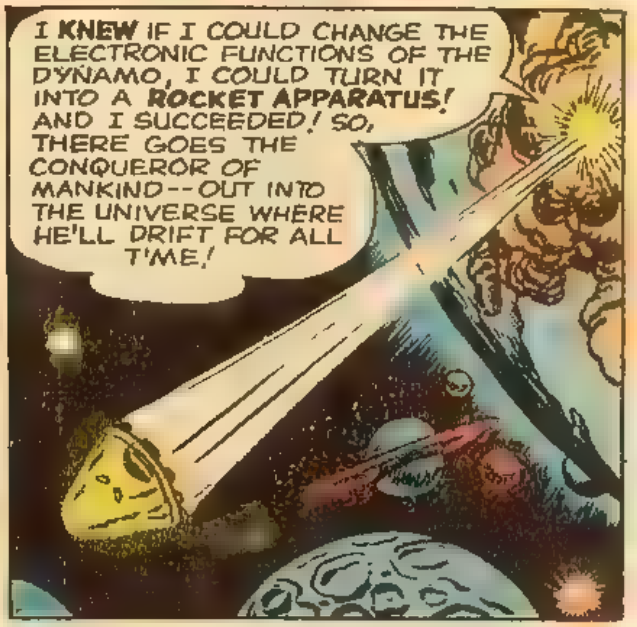

BUT INSTEAD OF RETURNING, I HURRIED FRANTICALLY TO GET BEYOND THE WALL BEFORE SPRAGG COULD AGAIN CLOSE THE DOOR!
FOOL! I COULD STOP YOU FROM LEAVING, BUT I SHALL NOT EVEN BOTHER! IN A FEW MOMENTS I SHALL HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO HYPNOTIZE YOU AND YOUR ENTIRE WORLD!! SO YOUR ESCAPE IS FUTILE!!

EVERYBODY'S OUT OF THERE! SPRAGG WILL TURN ON THE DYNAMO ANY SECOND NOW! MY PLAN MUST WORK! IT MUST!!

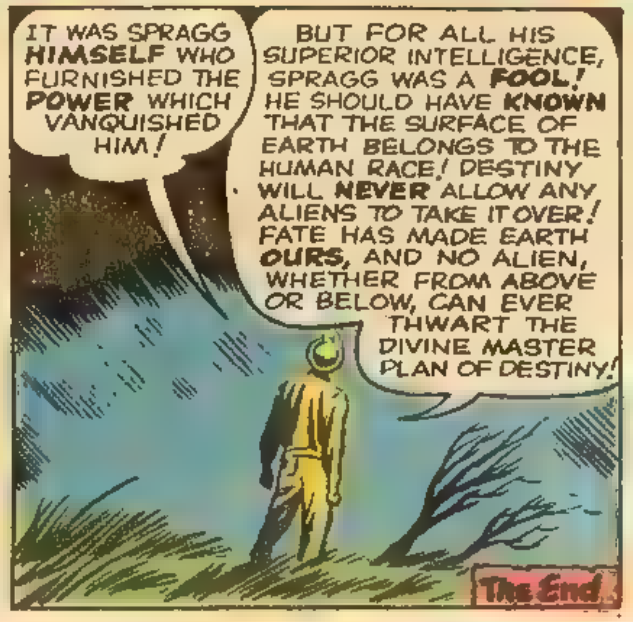

NOW, WITH THE POWER OF MY MIND, I SHALL START THE DYNAMO! I, THE MIGHTY SPRAGG, COMMAND THE DYNAMO TO BEGIN WORKING ...SO BE IT!!


AN INSTANT LATER, IT HAPPENED!!
BOOM!
NO!

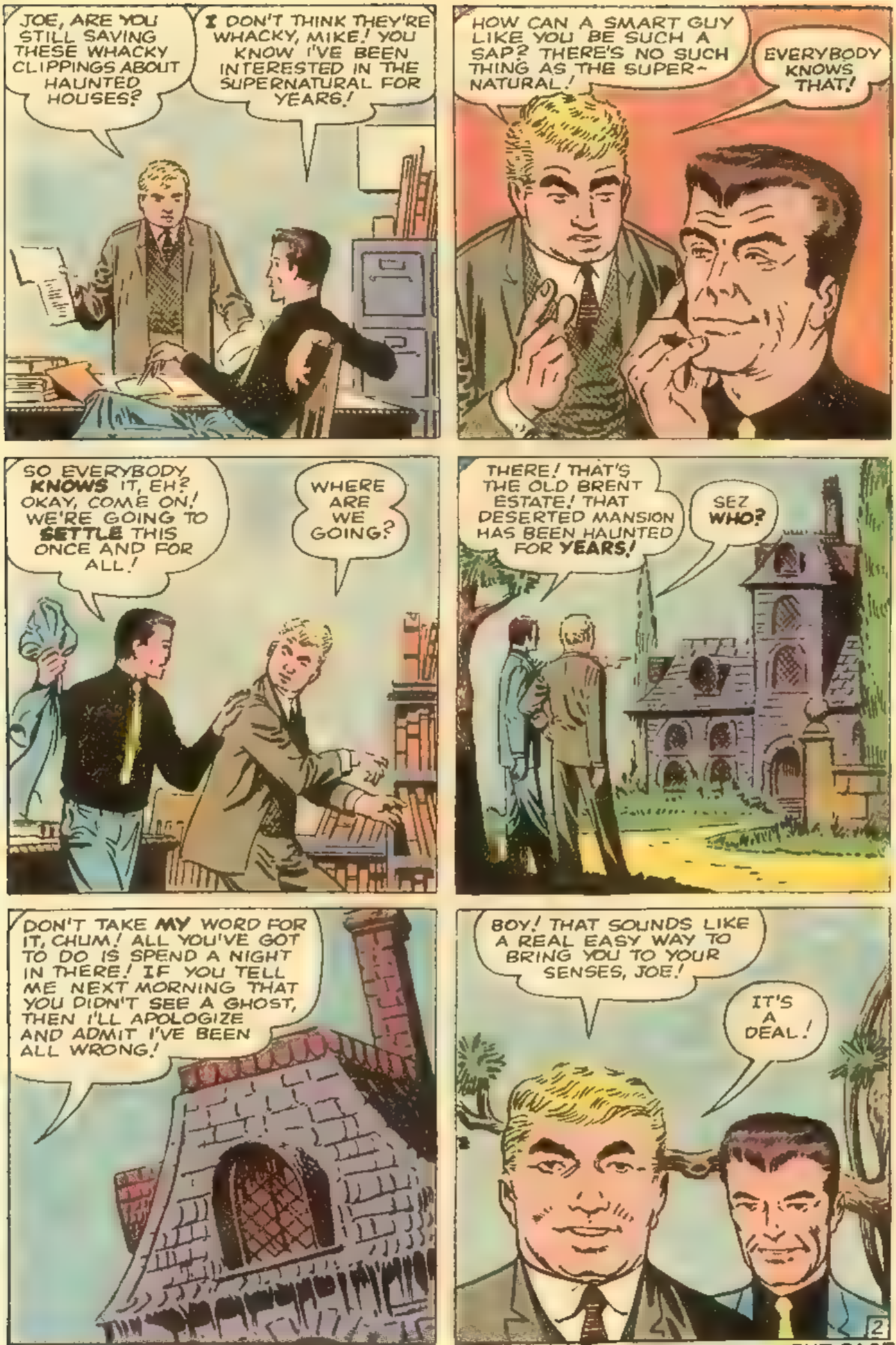
I DID IT! HE BLASTED HIMSELF OFF EARTH!
NOO


I KNEW IF I COULD CHANGE THE ELECTRONIC FUNCTIONS OF THE DYNAMO, I COULD TURN IT INTO A ROCKET APPARATUS! AND I SUCCEEDED! SO, THERE GOES THE CONQUEROR OF MANKIND--OUT INTO THE UNIVERSE WHERE HE'LL DRIFT FOR ALL T'ME!

ONCE SPRAGG PLUMMETTED BEYOND EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE, THE HYPNOTIC SPELL WAS LIFTED FROM THE VILLAGERS! THEY WERE ONCE AGAIN FREE MEN!
THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, PROFESSOR!
ALL OF EARTH IS IN YOUR DEBT!
DON'T THANK ME--THANK SPRAGG!
13


IT WAS SPRAGG HIMSELF WHO FURNISHED THE POWER WHICH VANQUISHED HIM!
BUT FOR ALL HIS SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE, SPRAGG WAS A FOOL! HE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT THE SURFACE OF EARTH BELONGS TO THE HUMAN RACE! DESTINY WILL NEVER ALLOW ANY ALIENS TO TAKE IT OVER! FATE HAS MADE EARTH OURS, AND NO ALIEN, WHETHER FROM ABOVE OR BELOW, CAN EVER THWART THE DIVINE MASTER PLAN OF DESTINY!
The End

WHERE LURKS THE GHOST!


JOE, ARE YOU STILL SAVING THESE WHACKY CLIPPINGS ABOUT HAUNTED HOUSES?
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE WHACKY, MIKE! YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN INTERESTED IN THE SUPERNATURAL FOR YEARS!
HOW CAN A SMART GUY LIKE YOU BE SUCH A SAP? THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS THE SUPER-NATURAL!
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT!
SO EVERYBODY **KNOWS** IT, EH? OKAY, COME ON! WE'RE GOING TO **SETTLE** THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THERE! THAT'S THE OLD BRENT ESTATE! THAT DESERTED MANSION HAS BEEN HAUNTED FOR **YEARS!**
SEZ **WHO?**
DON'T TAKE **MY** WORD FOR IT, CHUM! ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO IS SPEND A NIGHT IN THERE! IF YOU TELL ME NEXT MORNING THAT YOU DIDN'T SEE A GHOST, THEN I'LL APOLOGIZE AND ADMIT I'VE BEEN ALL WRONG!
BOY! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REAL EASY WAY TO BRING YOU TO YOUR SENSES, JOE!
IT'S A DEAL!
2

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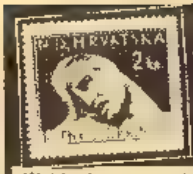

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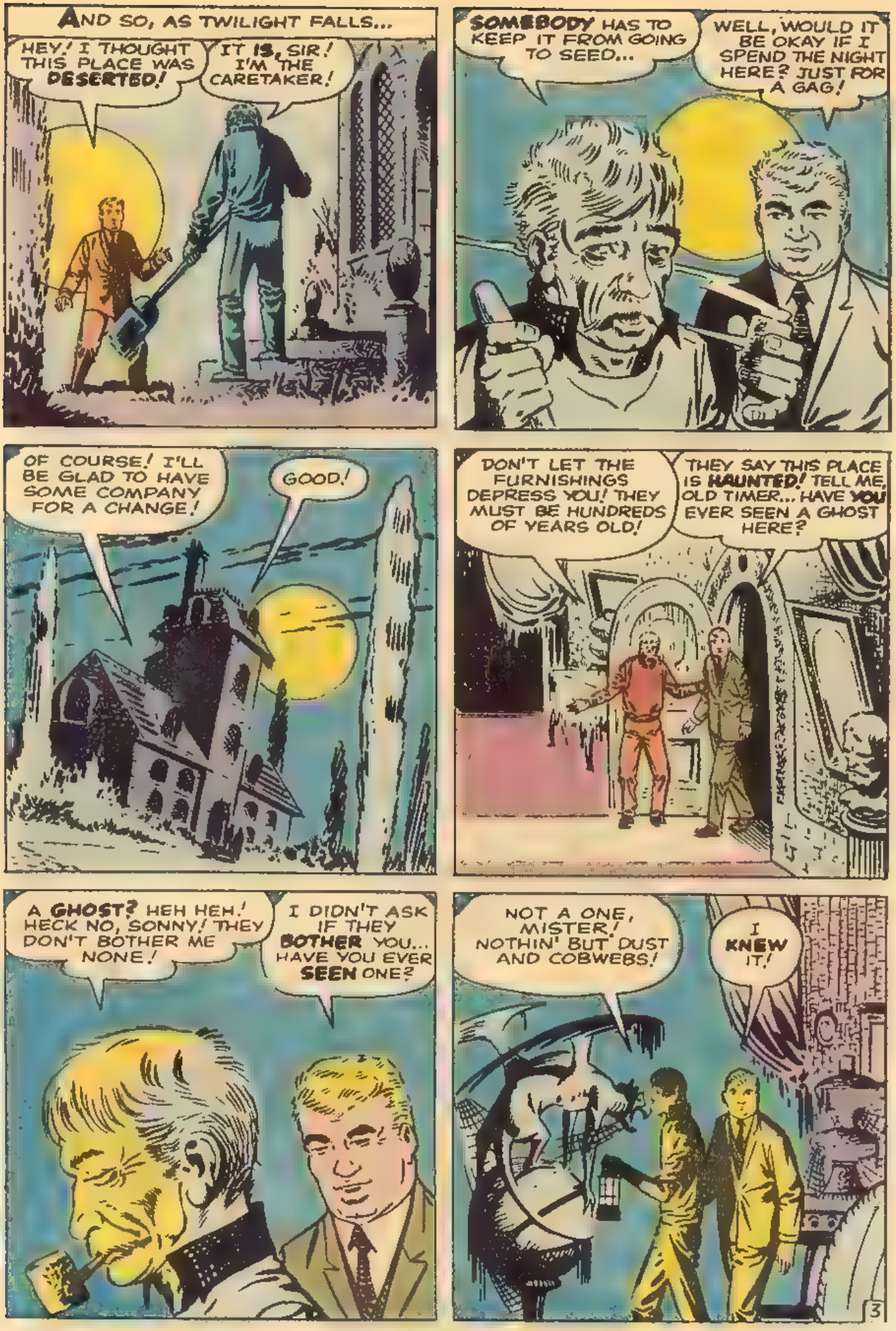
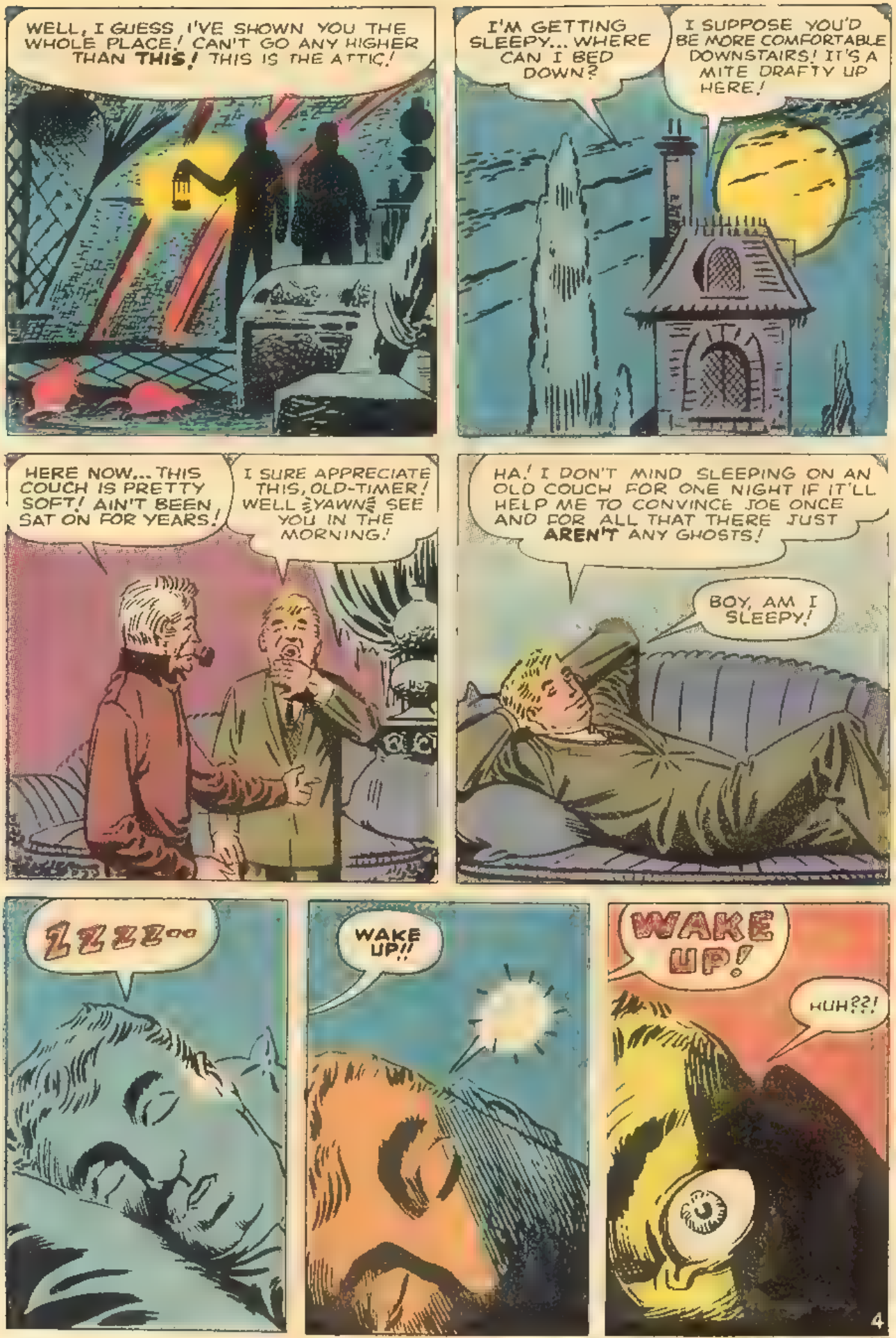

AND SO, AS TWILIGHT FALLS...
HEY! I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS DESERTED!
IT IS, SIR! I'M THE CARETAKER!
SOMEBODY HAS TO KEEP IT FROM GOING TO SEED...
WELL, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I SPEND THE NIGHT HERE? JUST FOR A GAG!
OF COURSE! I'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE SOME COMPANY FOR A CHANGE!
GOOD!
DON'T LET THE FURNISHINGS DEPRESS YOU! THEY MUST BE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD!
THEY SAY THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED! TELL ME, OLD TIMER... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A GHOST HERE?
A GHOST? HEH HEH! HECK NO, SONNY! THEY DON'T BOTHER ME NONE!
I DIDN'T ASK IF THEY BOTHER YOU... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ONE?
NOT A ONE, MISTER! NOTHIN' BUT DUST AND COBWEBS!
I KNEW IT!
3


WELL, I GUESS I'VE SHOWN YOU THE WHOLE PLACE! CAN'T GO ANY HIGHER THAN **THIS!** THIS IS THE ATTIC!
I'M GETTING SLEEPY... WHERE CAN I BED DOWN?
I SUPPOSE YOU'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE DOWNSTAIRS! IT'S A MITE DRAFTY UP HERE!
HERE NOW... THIS COUCH IS PRETTY SOFT! AIN'T BEEN SAT ON FOR YEARS!
I SURE APPRECIATE THIS, OLD-TIMER! WELL ≋YAWN≋ SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!
HA! I DON'T MIND SLEEPING ON AN OLD COUCH FOR ONE NIGHT IF IT'LL HELP ME TO CONVINCE JOE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT THERE JUST **AREN'T** ANY GHOSTS!
BOY, AM I SLEEPY!
ZZZZoo
WAKE UP!!
WAKE UP!
HUH??!
4

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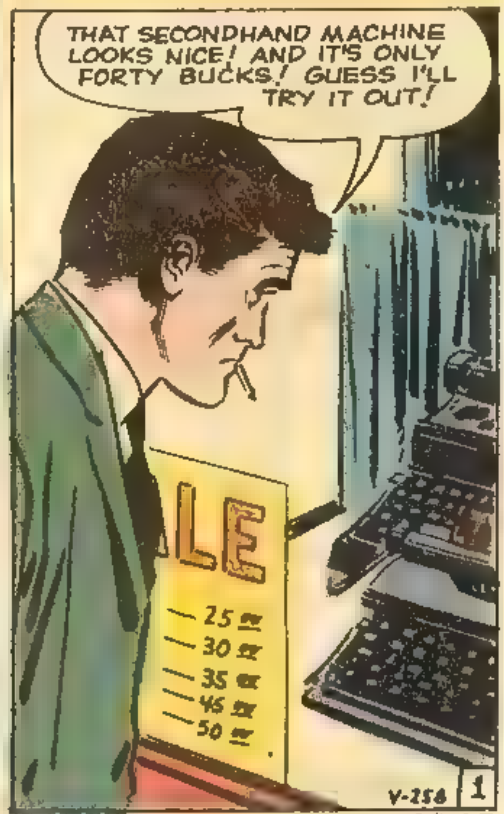
SORRY I STARTLED YOU, BUT IT'S ALMOST DAWN! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO GET AN EARLY START!
WHEW!
GOODBYE, YOU OLD HAUNTED HOUSE, YOU!
HA HA HA!
WELL, I HOPE THIS CLINCHES IT, PAL! THERE WASN'T A GHOST IN SIGHT!
THERE WASN'T?
AND I'VE EVEN GOT A WITNESS TO THE FACT THAT I WAS THERE ALL NIGHT!
A WITNESS??
YEP! THE OLD CARETAKER HIMSELF! HE WAS WITH ME ALL THE TIME!
THE OLD CARETAKER, EH?
IS THIS YOUR MAN?
OH NO!! NO!
CARETAKER OF BRENT MANSION KILLED BY INTRUDER!
NOV. 5, 1872: SPECIAL TO THE N.Y. GLOBE
THE END
5

"HELP!"

IT COULDN'T BE SO, FOR IT DEFIED ALL LOGIC--ALL REASON! IT HAD TO BE SOME SORT OF ILLUSION! AND YET, WHAT IF IT WEREN'T AN ILLUSION?? WHAT IF IT WERE REAL?? I HAD TO FIND OUT! BEFORE THE NIGHT WAS OVER, I HAD TO LEARN THE WHOLE FANTASTIC TRUTH!

I'M A WRITER... AND WHEN MY TYPING MACHINE BROKE DOWN, IT LEFT ME AS HELPLESS AS A TURTLE ON HIS BACK...
TYPEWRITER SHOP
BROWN'S
MUST GET ANOTHER TYPEWRITER! AH, HERE'S A SHOP!



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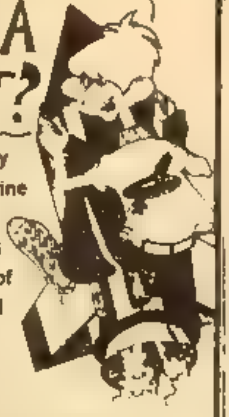
HEY! EVER FLOWN A ROCKET?



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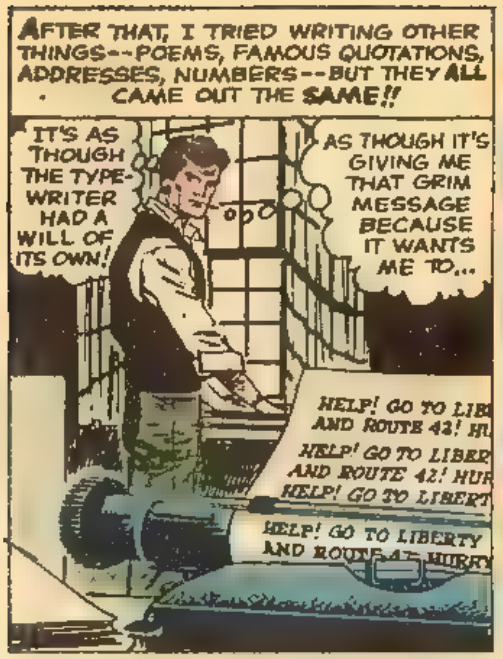
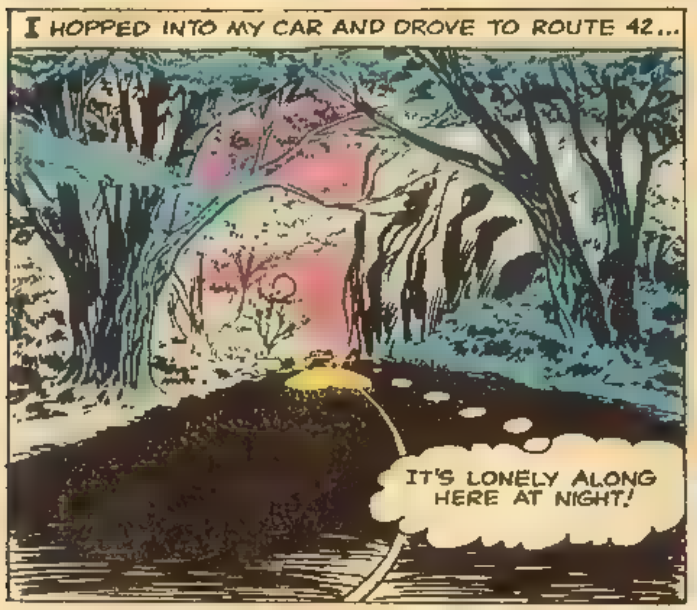
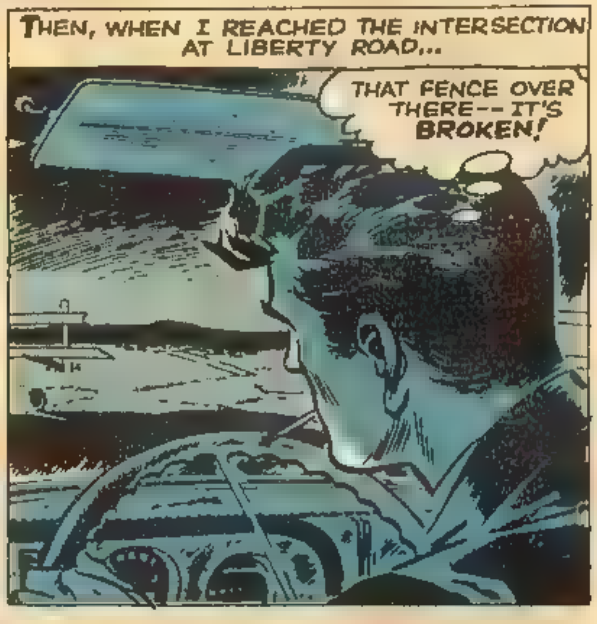
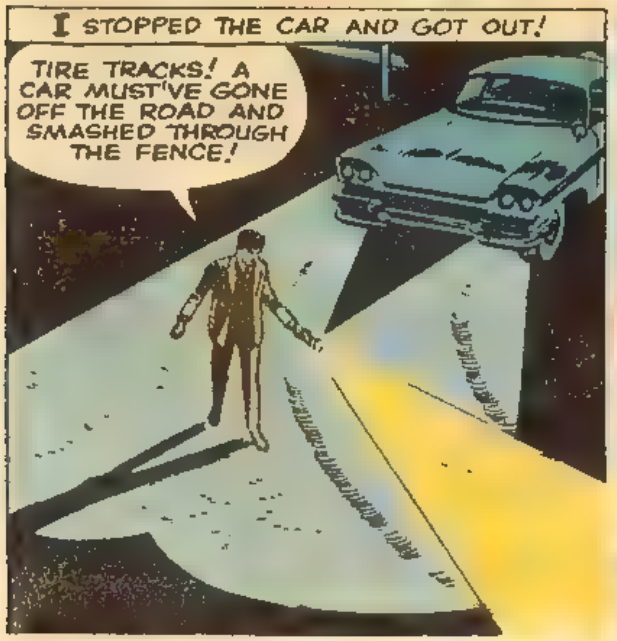
MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S A FINE MACHINE, SIR!
IT WORKS PRETTY WELL! I'LL TAKE IT!
I BOUGHT THE MACHINE AND TOOK IT HOME WITH ME! DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, I TYPED SEVERAL SHORT STORIES AND ABOUT A DOZEN POLITICAL ARTICLES ON THE TYPEWRITER...
...AND IF THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT, AGREES WITH THE FORGOING PROPOSITION, THEY SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO PUT IT INTO EFFECT...
THEN ONE EVENING WHILE I WAS WRITING A ROMANTIC SHORT STORY...
JOHN TOOK ELLEN IN HIS ARMS... HELD HER CLOSE... AND WHISPERED THAT HE LOVED HER!
WHEN I LOOKED AT THE PAPER TO PROOF-READ THE LINES I HAD JUST WRITTEN...
"HELP! GO TO LIBERTY ROAD AND ROUTE 42! HURRY..."
WHA-? THAT ISN'T WHAT I TYPED!
OR IS IT?? COULD I HAVE ACCIDENTALLY WRITTEN THOSE WORDS? BAH--THAT'S RIDICULOUS! I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!
I DECIDED TO AGAIN TRY WRITING MY ROMANTIC LINE! THIS TIME I HIT EACH KEY SLOWLY AND DELIBERATELY...
I-IT'S INCREDIBLE! EVERY TIME I HIT A KEY, INSTEAD OF THAT ONE MOVING, A KEY WITH A DIFFERENT LETTER MOVES!
CLICK!
AND WHEN I HAD FINISHED, THERE AGAIN WAS THE DIRE MESSAGE...
HELP! GO TO LIBERTY ROAD AND ROUTE 42! HURRY...
2


AFTER THAT, I TRIED WRITING OTHER THINGS--POEMS, FAMOUS QUOTATIONS, ADDRESSES, NUMBERS--BUT THEY ALL CAME OUT THE SAME!!
IT'S AS THOUGH THE TYPE-WRITER HAD A WILL OF ITS OWN!
AS THOUGH IT'S GIVING ME THAT GRIM MESSAGE BECAUSE IT WANTS ME TO...
HELP! GO TO LIB AND ROUTE 42! HU
HELP! GO TO LIBER AND ROUTE 42! HUR
HELP! GO TO LIBERT
HELP! GO TO LIBERTY AND ROUTE 42 HURRY







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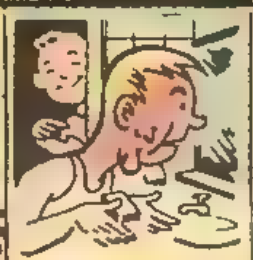

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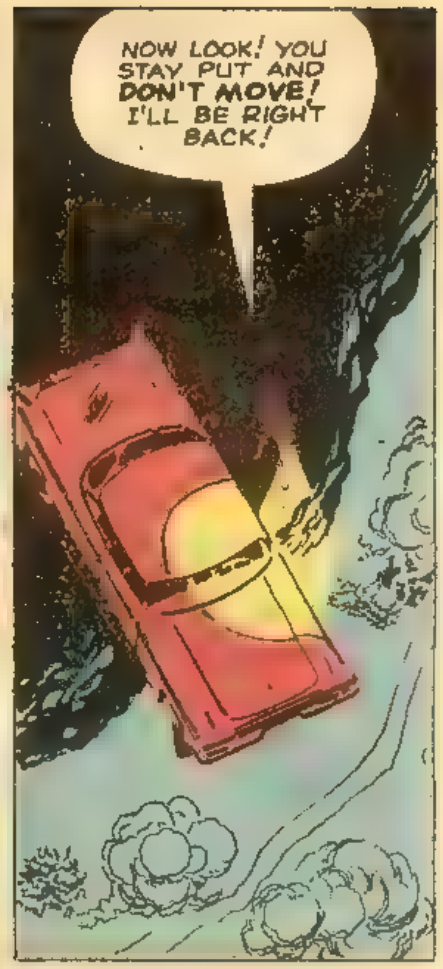
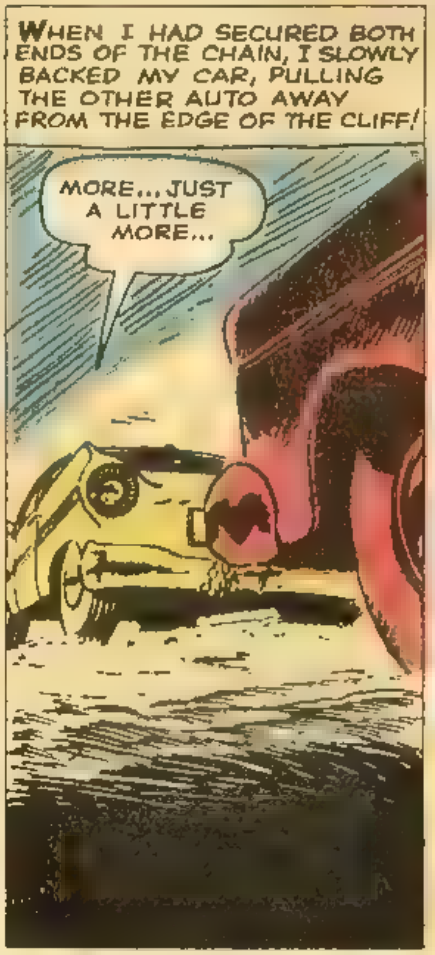
THE CAR WAS BALANCED PRECARIOUSLY ON THE CLIFF'S EDGE! AT THE SLIGHTEST LURCH, THE VEHICLE WOULD HAVE FALLEN OVER THE SIDE!
IT'S A ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FOOT DROP TO THE BOTTOM OF THE CLIFF! IF THE CAR FALLS, IT WILL--WAIT! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE FRONT SEAT!

I RAN OVER TO THE MAN! HE'D BEEN SITTING IN THE CAR FOR HOURS AND WAS NOW ALMOST IN A STATE OF SHOCK!
BACK AT THE INTERSECTION... MY CAR WENT OUT OF CONTROL! IT CRASHED THROUGH THE FENCE AND ROLLED THIS FAR BEFORE I COULD STOP IT!
I WANT DESPERATELY TO GET OUT OF THE CAR, BUT I'M AFRAID IF I MAKE THE SLIGHTEST MOVE -- THE CAR WILL FALL OVER THE CLIFF!!

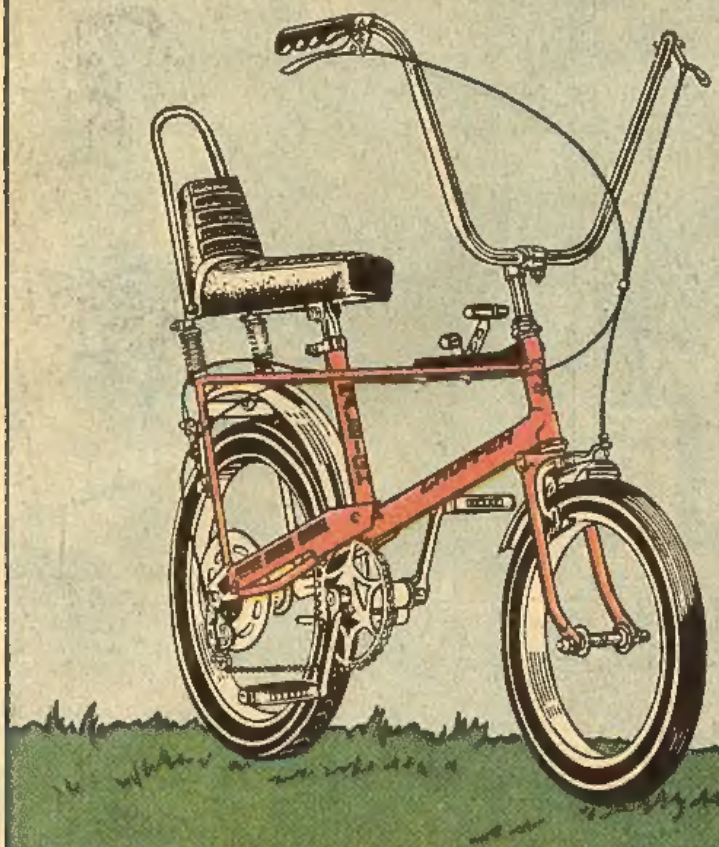

NOW LOOK! YOU STAY PUT AND DON'T MOVE! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

I RACED TO MY OWN CAR AND DROVE IT TO THE CLIFF! THEN I TOOK A CHAIN OUT OF THE TRUNK, LINKING IT FROM MY CAR'S FRONT BUMPER TO THE OTHER SEDAN'S REAR BUMPER!
HURRY! EVERY SECOND I SIT HERE SEEMS LIKE AN ETERNITY!
I'M WORKING AS FAST AS I CAN!


WHEN I HAD SECURED BOTH ENDS OF THE CHAIN, I SLOWLY BACKED MY CAR, PULLING THE OTHER AUTO AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!
MORE... JUST A LITTLE MORE...

A FEW SECONDS LATER, THE ORDEAL WAS OVER!!
IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG, I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ME! I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD THAT YOU HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY!
BUT I DIDN'T JUST HAPPEN BY! I-I WAS SENT HERE!

THEN I TOLD THE WHOLE FANTASTIC STORY OF THE TYPEWRITER!
...AND NO MATTER WHAT I WROTE, IT CAME OUT, "HELP! GO TO LIBERTY ROAD AND ROUTE 42! HURRY!"
IT'S BEYOND BELIEF! TELL ME... WHERE DID YOU BUY THE TYPEWRITER??
IT'S A SECONDHAND MACHINE! I BOUGHT IT AT BROWN'S TYPEWRITER SHOP, OVER ON ELM STREET!
BROWN'S?!! C-CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE MACHINE TO ME?
I GAVE HIM A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPEWRITER, AND, WHEN I HAD FINISHED...
THAT WAS... MY MACHINE! I SOLD IT TO BROWN'S A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO!
Y-YOURS!!
IT'S TRUE! THE TYPEWRITER MADE A LOT OF NOISE WHEN I USED IT, AND THE CLATTER BOTHERED MY WIFE! SO SHE MADE ME SELL THE MACHINE AND BUY A NOISELESS MODEL!
BUT I SURE LOVED THAT OLD MACHINE ...I HATED TO GIVE IT UP!
LOOKS LIKE THE TYPEWRITER FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT YOU!
SO NOW AT LAST I KNEW THE TRUTH...THE STRANGE, INCREDIBLE TRUTH! I RETURNED HOME AND SINCE THAT NIGHT, I'VE BEEN TAKING FANATICAL CARE OF MY TYPEWRITER!
MY FRIENDS ALL THINK I'M NUTS FOR BRUSHING AND POLISHING THIS MACHINE SO OFTEN! BUT I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
SOME DAY I MAY BE IN TROUBLE... AND IF SO, I WANT TO BE SURE THIS OLD MACHINE HELPS ME THE WAY IT HELPED ITS LAST OWNER!!!
THE END
5



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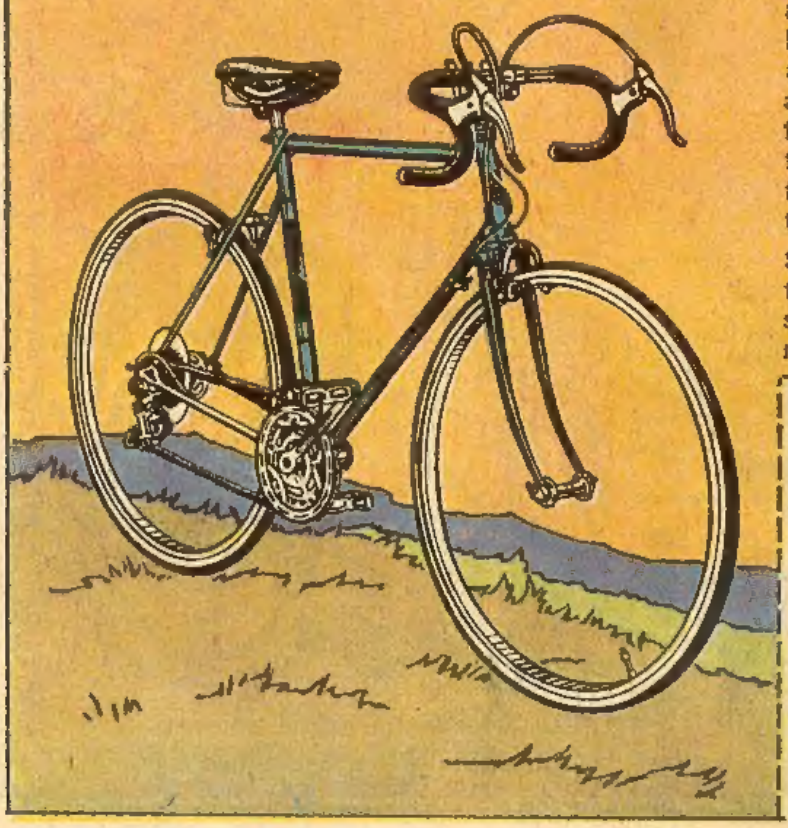

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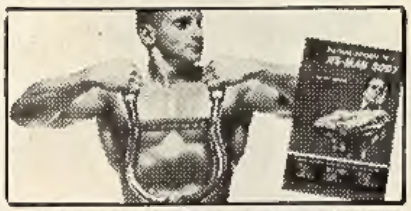

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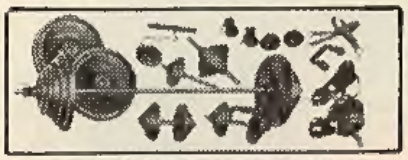

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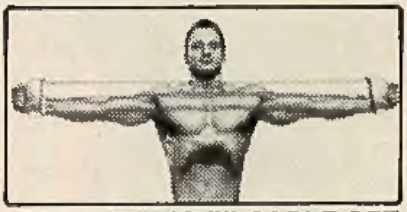

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